

## Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 IO-14 CU-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 AID-20 /141 W

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R 122255Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

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E.O. 11652 ,/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FIGUEROA ABDUCTION AND RELATED INTERNAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MEXICO 4703 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: CASE OF SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA, MISSING SINCE MAY 30, CONTINUES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS. FIGUEROA'S SON HAS ISSUED PLEA TO GUERRILLA LEADER CABANAS FOR PROOF THAT HIS FATHER IS ALIVE AND FOR RANSOM DEMANDS AND HAS CONFIRMED FAMILY'S BELIEF THAT DISAPPEARANCE IS GENUINE KIDNAPPING. OTHER CRIME CONTINUES TO MAKE NEWS, HOWEVER, WITH STUDENT LEADER MURDERED IN GUADALAJARA, STUDENT KIDNAPPED IN GUERRERO, AND ALLEGATIONS OF A COUNTER-GUERRILLA "DEATH SQUAD" OPERATING IN GUERRERO. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE OF SEN. RUBEN FIGUEROA, MISSING PRE-CANDIDATE OF THE PRI FOR GOVERNORSHIP OF GUERRERO, SINCE LAST REPORT (REFTEL). FIGUEROA'S SON, LIC. RUBEN FIGUEROA ALCOCER, MADE BRIEF RADIO BROADCAST ADDRESSED TO LUCIO CABANAS JUNE 10 IN WHICH HE STATED THAT ARMY AND POLICE HAD COMPLIED WITH DEMANDS IN CABANAS JUNE 2 COMMUNIQUE BY WITHDRAW-  
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ING FROM FOUR MUNICIPALITIES MENTIONED THEREIN AND, ON THIS BASIS,

ASKED FOR PROMISED FOLLOW-UP COMMUNIQUE THAT WOULD CONTAIN CONDITIONS FOR FIGUEROA'S RELEASE. SON ALSO ASKED FOR PROOF THAT SENATOR IS ALIVE AND WELL AND REQUESTED THAT COMMUNIQUE BE SENT DIRECTLY TO FAMILY.

3. ON JUNE 11 BOTH FIGUEROA'S SON AND GUERRERO GOV. ISRAEL NOGUEDA OTERO TOLD PRESS THAT SEN. FIGUEROA IS NOT ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE WITH CABANAS BUT IS DEFINITELY VICTIM OF A KIDNAPPING. GOV. NOGUEDA ALSO TESTIFIED TO AUTHENTICITY OF JUNE 2 COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY CABANAS AND ASSOCIATES. WE PRESUME INTENT OF THESE DECLARATIONS WAS TO SQUELCH VARIOUS RUMORS CIRCULATING IN MEXICO CITY AND IN GUERRERO TO EFFECT THAT SEN. FIGUEROA HAS VOLUNTARILY SPENT PAST TWO WEEKS WITH CABANAS OR THAT HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY OTHER PERSONS (LOCAL POLITICAL ENEMIES OR, IN MOST EXTREME VERSION, AGENTS OF GOM ITSELF WHICH HAS SUPPOSEDLY DECIDED THAT FIGUEROA AFTER ALL IS NOT GOOD CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNORSHIP) WHO HAVE PUT BLAME ON CABANAS.

4. PRI'S POPULAR SECTOR MEANWHILE HELD STATE ASSEMBLY JUNE 9 AS SCHEDULED TO REGISTER SUPPORT FOR FIGUEROA'S CANDIDACY, AND NATIONAL CTM LEADER FIDEL VELAZQUEZ HAS SAID THAT CTM AT STATE LEVEL WILL PROCEED WITH ITS ASSEMBLY JUNE 16.

5. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN GUERRERO INDICATE THAT STATE IS MAINTAINING ITS RECORD OF VIOLENCE. ACAPULCO PAPERS JUNE 10 EVIDENTLY CARRIED PICTURES OF TWO UNIDENTIFIED BODIES -- BOUND AND ALLEGEDLY WITH EVIDENCE OF TORTURE -- FOUND IN CABANAS'S OPERATING AREA. ACCOMPANYING THESE REPORTS ARE STATEMENTS BY SELF-STYLED LEADER OF INDEPENDENT CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION THAT THESE MURDERS ARE ONLY LATEST OF "MORE THAN 20" CARRIED OUT OVER PAST MONTH BY COUNTER-GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION KNOW AS "SANGRE" (BLOOD) OR "ESCUADRON DE LA MUERTE" (DEATH SQUADRON). ACCORDING TO THIS ALLEGATION, ALL VICTIMS HAVE BEEN CABANAS SYMPATHIZERS. CHIEF OF STATE JUDICIAL POLICE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO PRESS DISCOVERY OF "SEVERAL" SUCH MURDER VICTIMS BUT DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ULTRA-RIGHTIST GROUP OPERATING IN STATE.

6. IN YET ANOTHER GUERRERO KIDNAPPING, STUDENT NAMED JORGE MUNOZ PINEDA, 19, DESCRIBED AS SON OF WEALTHY TAXCO SILVER MERCHANT, WAS KIDNAPPED JUNE 10 SHORT DISTANCE OUTSIDE THAT CITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON HIGHWAY TO TOLUCA. NO INDICATION SO FAR OF RANSOM DEMAND OR OF ANY LINKAGE WITH FIGUEROA CASE.

7. FINALLY, TROUBLED CITY OF GUADALAJARA EXPERIENCED YET ANOTHER SERIOUS CRIME ON HEELS OF SARQUIS KIDNAPPING (MEXICO 4705: JOSE DE JESUS ROBLEDO, DESCRIBED AS STUDENT LEADER AT LOCAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, WAS SHOT AND KILLED JUNE 9 IN MANNER REMINISCENT OF MURDER OF ANOTHER STUDENT LEADER THERE ON MAY 5.

8. BROTHER OF LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, LONG-TIME RESIDENT, TOLD EMBOFFS JUNE 11 THAT SARQUIS WAS OBVIOUS TARGET BECAUSE OF WEALTH AND PROMINENCE AND THAT HE SAW NO SIGN THAT LEBANESE COMMUNITY WAS BEING TARGETED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HE HAD NO INFORMATION, HOWEVER, AS TO POSSIBLE ANTI-GOM POLITICAL MOTIVATION OF SARQUIS KIDNAPPERS.

9. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTEL PARA 8, WE REMAIN DOUBTFUL THAT GOM HAS IN FACT COMPLIED FULLY WITH PRECONDITIONS SET DOWN BY CABANAS FOR NEGOTIATION OF FIGUEROA'S RELEASE, BUT GOM APPEARS TO BE RESTING ITS CASE AND WAITING FOR NEXT MOVE BY CABANAS. WE BELIEVE THAT GOM CONCERN REMAINS HIGH, ALTHOUGH PRES. ECHEVERRIA HAS GONE AHEAD WITH THREE-DAY TOUR OF STATE OF AGUACALIENTES. MEANWHILE, GOM GOT THROUGH THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 10, 1971, KILLING OF STUDENTS BY "HALCONES" WITHOUT DISTURBANCES. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THERE WAS ONLY A PEACEFUL COMMEMORATION NEAR SITE OF "MASSACRE" (NORMAL SCHOOL) IN MEXICO CITY, OUT OF TOWN, A DEMONSTRATION IN MERIDA.  
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## Message Attributes

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